

READERS DIGEST



ROVING EDITOR • Henry Hurt

April 14, 1982

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Seems to me it was about eighteen months ago that Jim Lesar called me on your behalf to see what I could dig up that we got on the Nosenko matter. I immediately asked the chief researcher who worked with Epstein--some-one from our staff--and she reported to me that she went through the materials we still had on hand from that project. She found nothing on Nosenko and said that Epstein had taken most of the material and given it to a university in Boston, where it could be inspected. (There was always some question in my mind about just who owned that material, but since Epstein got it, I guess it's his.) When I am next in New York City, where the remnants of that material is housed, I will go through those files myself and see what I can find. If you envision trying to use the Boston facilities, I will find out just which place has the material and make sure that it is made available to you.

It must seem almost incredible to you that we would have let such documents slip away. This would never have happened under normal circumstances. My connection with that project was not one in which I could control what happened to the documents. In any event, you are welcome to anything we can eventually come up with. I'm afraid I don't plan to be in New York any time soon, but I will keep this in mind.

I don't have any pictures of defectors that I can show you. My dealings with Golitsyn have been extremely sensitive, and frankly I have resisted ever telling anyone where I found him or under what circumstances with the hope that eventually I can win a substantive interview with him. (I would not like to be quoted as having said that.) Based on what I know of Golitsyn, I would be astounded if he met with you under the conditions you described. I am terribly sorry not to be helpful on that point, and I hope you understand my reasons.

As for meeting with Nosenko, your chances of working that out with Barron would be better than my own.

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Mr. Harold Weisberg

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April 14, 1982

I work strictly out of our New York office and have never had any connection with our Washington office, or with Barron beyond some casual encounters. From what I hear on the street in Washington, the RD office there has not been overly pleased with some of my stories. Our Washington office was instrumental in arranging Epstein's interview with Nosenko, but I have no reason to believe it likely this would happen again.

I am quite honored to have your kind comments about Shadrin. Coming from a man of your enormous skills, your words are especially good to hear. Shadrin was terribly frustrating, as you can imagine, and ultimately I am very disappointed with the fact I didn't find out more. I do think it was better to go ahead and publish the book as opposed to holding off with the hope that something would break. I do know I did my best.

I greatly appreciate your offer to be of assistance in our case, which is still before the courts. I am not in day-to-day contact with the lawyers, and I recently asked my lawyer to send Lesar the New York opinions for use in your pending case. I trust they arrived on time.

If you are speaking to Jim Lesar, I wish you would ask him to send me his newest appeals brief, along with a memo about the copying expenses so that I can reimburse him. From what little I know, your suit for the scientific testing evidence in the JFK case is supremely important. I gather that it is this testing that would show the validity ~~of the Warren Commission's findings on the weapons and the shots~~ or the invalidity of the Warren Commission's findings on the shots, bullets and weapons. One of the things I want to ask you about when we get together is a rather pompous claim I heard from one Warren Commission supporter recently who told me that the question about the scientific testing by the Warren Commission had become "academic" since the HSCA, using more advanced technology, had arrived at the same findings. It is, of course, absurd to claim that such second testing would render questions such as yours academic. All of this leads me to your "caution about unquestioning acceptance of the HSCA's work." I certainly want to talk to you about this.

Again, I deeply appreciate your reading Shadrin, and thank you for your kind words.

Yours sincerely,

